

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): A method for enhancing delivery of a compound into and across an animal ocular tissue, the method comprising:

administering to the ocular tissue a conjugate comprising the compound and a delivery-enhancing transporter,

wherein:

- i. the compound is attached to the delivery-enhancing transporter through a linker, and
- ii. the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises fewer than 50 subunits and comprises at least 5 guanidino or amidino moieties, thereby increasing delivery of the conjugate into the ocular tissue compared to delivery of the compound in the absence of the delivery-enhancing transporter.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein delivery of the conjugate into the ocular tissue is increased at least two-fold compared to delivery of the compound in the absence of the delivery-enhancing transporter.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein delivery of the conjugate into the ocular tissue is increased at least ten-fold compared to delivery of the compound in the absence of the delivery-enhancing transporter.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ocular tissue is one or more layers of epithelial or endothelial tissue.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ocular tissue is the retina.

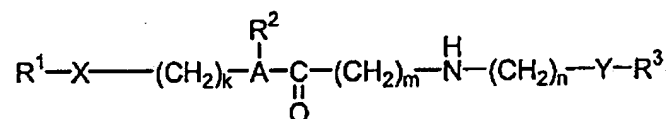
Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ocular tissue is the optic nerve.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the linker is a releasable linker.

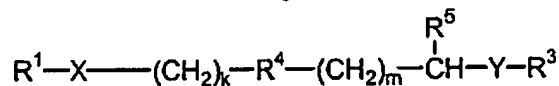
Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the linker is stable in a saline solution [[a]] at pH 7 but is cleaved when transported into a cell.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the subunits are amino acids.

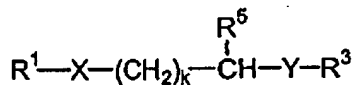
Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate has a structure selected from the group consisting of structures 3, 4, [[or]] and 5, as follows:



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wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> comprises the compound;

X is a linkage formed between a functional group on the ~~biologically active compound~~ and a terminal functional group on the ~~linking moiety~~ linker;

Y is a linkage formed from a functional group on the transport moiety and a functional group on the ~~linking moiety~~ linker;

A is N or CH;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl, or allyl;

R<sup>3</sup> comprises the delivery-enhancing transporter;

R<sup>4</sup> is S, O, NR<sup>6</sup> or CR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>;

R<sup>5</sup> is H, OH, SH or ~~NHR<sup>6</sup>~~ NHR<sup>6</sup>;

$R^6$  is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, acyl or allyl;

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  are independently hydrogen or alkyl;

$k$  and  $m$  are each independently selected from 1 and 2; and

$n$  is 1 to 10.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-C(O)O-$ ,  $-C(O)NH-$ ,  $-OC(O)NH-$ ,  $-S-S-$ ,  $-C(S)O-$ ,  $-C(S)NH-$ ,  $-NHC(O)NH-$ ,  $-SO_2NH-$ ,  $-SONH-$ , phosphate, ~~phosphonate~~ phosphonate, phosphinate, and  $CR^7R^8$ , wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and alkyl.

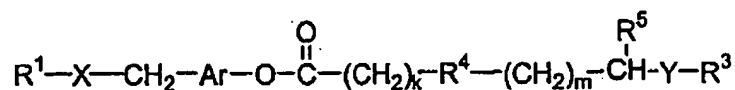
Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the conjugate comprises structure 3,  $Y$  is  $[[N]] \underline{NH}$ , and  $R^2$  is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, allyl, benzyl or phenyl.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein  $R^2$  is benzyl;  $k$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  are each 1, and  $X$  is  $-OC(O)-$ .

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the conjugate comprises structure 4;  $R^4$  is S;  $R^5$  is  $NHR^6$ ; and  $R^6$  is hydrogen, methyl, allyl, butyl or phenyl.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the conjugate comprises structure 4;  $R^5$  is  $NHR^6$ ;  $R^6$  is hydrogen, methyl, allyl, butyl or phenyl; and  $k$  and  $m$  are each 1.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises structure 6 as follows:



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wherein:

$R^1$  comprises the compound;

X is a linkage formed between a functional group on the ~~biologically active~~ compound and a terminal functional group on the ~~linking moiety~~ linker;

Y is a linkage formed from a functional group on the transport moiety and a functional group on the ~~linking moiety~~ linker;

Ar is an aryl group having the attached radicals arranged in an *ortho* or *para* configuration, which aryl group can be substituted or unsubstituted;

$R^3$  comprises the delivery-enhancing transporter;

$R^4$  is S, O,  $NR^6$  or  $CR^7R^8$ ;

$R^5$  is H, OH, SH or  $NHR_6$ ;

$R^6$  is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, acyl or allyl;

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  are independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl; and

k and m are each independently selected from 1 and 2.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)O-, -C(O)NH-, -OC(O)NH-, -S-S-, -C(S)O-, -C(S)NH-, -NHC(O)NH-, -SO<sub>2</sub>NH-, -SONH-, phosphate, ~~phosphonate~~ phosphonate, phosphinate, and  $CR^7R^8$ , wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and alkyl.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein  $[[R_4]]$   $R^4$  is S;  $R^5$  is  $NHR^6$ ; and  $R^6$  is hydrogen, methyl, allyl, butyl or phenyl.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises at least two delivery-enhancing transporters.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate is administered as an eye drop.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the conjugate is administered as an injection.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises a non-peptide backbone.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter is not attached to an amino acid sequence to which the delivery enhancing transporter molecule is attached in a naturally occurring protein.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises from 5 to 25 guanidino or amidino moieties.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises between 7 and 15 guanidino moieties.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises at least 6 contiguous guanidino and/or amidino moieties.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter consists essentially of 5 to 50 amino acids, at least 50 percent of which amino acids are arginines or analogs thereof.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter comprises 5 to 25 arginine residues or analogs thereof.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28, wherein at least one arginine is a D-arginine.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein all of the arginines are D-arginines.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein at least 70 percent of the amino acids that comprise the delivery-enhancing transporter are arginines or arginine analogs.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 27, wherein the delivery-enhancing transporter is seven contiguous D-arginines.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a therapeutic for a disease selected from the group consisting of bacterial infections, viral infections, fungal infections, glaucoma, anterior, intermediate, and posterior uveitis, optic neuritis, Leber's neuroretinitis, retinitis, ~~pseudotumor/myositis~~, pseudotumor/myositis, orbital myositis, hemangioma/lymphangioma, toxocariasis, ~~Behcet's~~ Behcet's panuveitis, inflammatory ~~chorioretinopathies~~ chorioretinopathies, vasculitis, dry eye syndrome (Sjogren's syndrome), corneal edema, accommodative esotropia, cycloplegia, mydriasis, reverse mydriasis, and macular degeneracy.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of anti-bacterial compounds, anti-viral compounds, anti-fungal compounds, anti-protozoan compounds, anti-histamines, compounds that ~~dilate~~ dilate the pupil, ~~anesthetic~~ anesthetic compounds, steroidal antiinflammatory agents, antiinflammatory analgesics, chemotherapeutic agents, hormones, anticataract agents, neovascularization inhibitors, immunosuppressants, protease inhibitors, aldose reductase inhibitors, corticoid steroids, immunosuppressives, cholinergic agents, anticholinesterase agents, ~~muscaric~~ muscarinic antagonists, sympathomimetic agents,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  adrenergic antagonists, and anti-angiogenic factors.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of acyclovir and cyclosporins.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is transported ~~aeross~~ across the blood-brain barrier.